

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 DPW-01 /072 W

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R 230638Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4888

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: AS, PFOR, VS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARLIAMENTARY APPEAL FOR IMPLE-
MENTATION OF PARIS AGREEMENTS

REF: CANBERRA A-230, DECEMBER 10, 1974

1. SUMMARY: GVN EMBASSY IN CANBERRA HAS DRAWN TO OUR ATTENTION TEXT OF APPEAL FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PARIS ACCORDS ON VIET-NAM, SIGNED BY 65 OUT OF 95 ALP MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, ISSUED DEC. 14. APPEAL RECEIVED SCANT ATTENTION AT TIME OF ISSUANCE, BUT EXAMINATION OF ITS TEXT, TOGETHER WITH PRESS RELEASE THAT ACCOMPANIED IT, SHOWS THAT IT WAS EFFORT TO LEGITIMIZE PRG AND SUPPORT ONGOING EFFORTS BY THE AUSTRALIAN LEFT TO PROMOTE RECOGNITION OF PRG BY GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA. WE BELIEVE MANY OF SIGNERS OF APPEAL DID NOT APPRECIATE IMPLICATIONS AND WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH THEM. APPEAL MAY WELL BE USED AT FORTHCOMING LABOR PARTY CONFERENCE IN EARLY FEBRUARY. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPT INDICATE WHETHER APPEAL OF AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS, DIRECTED TO U.S., WAS RECEIVED BY DEPT OR WHITE HOUSE. END SUMMARY

2. GVN EMBASSY IN CANBERRA HAS DRAWN TO OUR ATTENTION TEXT
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OF PRESS STATEMENT CIRCULATED BY SENATOR JEAN MELZER

(ALP, VICTORIA, SECRETARY OF LABOR PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS GROUP TO PROMOTE RECOGNITION OF PRG - REFAIR) ON DEC 14. STATEMENT, ENCLOSED TEXT OF PETITION SIGNED BY 65 MEMBERS OF LABOR PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS, RECEIVED LITTLE PRESS ATTENTION AND WAS DESCRIBED BY MEDIA AT TIME OF ISSUANCE AS URGING SUPPORT FOR AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PARIS AGREEMENTS ON VIETNAM.

3. EXAMINATION OF APPEAL AND ACCOMPANYING STATEMENT MAKES IT CLEAR IT GOES WELL BEYOND MERE EXHORTATION FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PARIS AGREEMENTS. PETITION ADDRESSED TO U.S. ONLY AND ASKS U.S. SPECIFICALLY:

- A. TO WITHDRAW MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM GVN "IN ACCORDANCE WITH TERMS OF PARIS PEACE AGREEMENT";
- B. TO DISCONTINUE FUNDS FOR SUPPORT, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, OF ANY INTERNAL SECURITY PROGRAMME, OR ANY POLICE OR PRISONS'S SYSTEM IN RVN;
- C. TO JOIN IN CALLING FOR "RELEASE OF THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF CIVILIAN PRISONERS HELD IN SIAGON JAILS AND CAMPS, MANY OF WHOM ARE MEMBERS OF THE THIRD FORCE, AND WHOSE FREEDOM IS ESSENTIAL TO THE FORMATION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION AND CONCORD, AS SET OUT IN ARTICLE 12 OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT."

4. APPEAL WAS SIGNED BY THE 39 LABOR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY JOINED CAUCUS COMMITTEE TO PROMOTE RECOGNITION OF PRG (REFAIR). HOWEVER, ADDITIONAL 26 LABOR MP'S APPARENTLY SIGNED APPEAL, INCLUDING NUMBER WHO HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY SUPPORTED COMMUNIST CAUSE IN SOUTH VIETNAM OR EVEN EXPRESSED VIEWS ON SUBJECT, SUCH AS SENATOR L.K. MURPHY (ATTORNEY-GENERAL), WILLIAM MORRISON (MINISTER FOR SCIENCE), LANCE BARNARD (MINISTER FOR DEFENSE), PAUL KEATING (RIGHT WING LABOR MHR FROM NEW SOUTH WALES), AND CHRISTOPHER HURFORD (MIDDLE OF THE ROAD MHR FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA).

5. APPEAL WAS NOT RPT NOT SENT THROUGH THIS EMBASSY, AND THIS CIRCUMSTANCE, TOGETHER WITH MINIMUM PUBLICITY GIVEN TO IT BY MEDIA AT TIME OF ISSUANCE, IS REASON IT NOT REPORTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNTIL NOW. DFA TELLS US IT WAS GENERALLY AWARE OF APPEAL TO U.S., BUT IT WAS NOT RPT NOT SENT THROUGH AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON. DFA DOUBTS APPEAL WAS SENT TO U.S. AT ALL, AS PURPOSE OF EXERCISE IN VIEW OF DFA WAS TO INFLUENCE AUSTRALIAN POLICY ON RECOGNITION OF PRG.

6. PRESS RELEASE, WHICH ACCOMPANIED PUBLICATION OF APPEAL, COMMENTS THAT APPEAL "RECOGNIZED THE LEGITIMACY

OF THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT TO HAVE EQUAL STATUS WITH THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT. BOTH SENATOR GIETZELT AND SENATOR MELZER SPOKE RECENTLY WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT. THEY WERE ASSURED BY THE REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT WAS DETERMINED THERE WOULD BE NO RECRIMINATIONS ARISING FROM THE LONG CIVIL WAR. THE POLICY OF THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT WAS STATED TO BE THAT THE WAR SHOULD BE ENDED AND THAT A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED. THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT'S ASSURANCES WERE ACCEPTED BY THE SENATORS."

7. COMMENT: THE APPEAL CERTAINLY GOES MUCH FARTHER THAN ANY PREVIOUS STATEMENT SIGNED BY MAJORITY OF PARLIAMENTARY LABOR CAUCUS ON VIET-NAM. APPEAL IS FACTUALLY IN ERROR, AND WE WILL QUIETLY CONTACT CERTAIN FRIENDS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND WHO LIKELY TO HAVE SIGNED PETITION WITHOUT REALIZING ITS IMPLICATIONS. AMBASSADOR WILL ALSO MENTION THIS PETITION TO FOREIGN MINISTER WILLESEE JANUARY 24. PRESS RELEASE ACCOMPANYING PUBLICATION OF APPEAL CLEARLY GOES WELL BEYOND VIEWS OF PROBABLE MAJORITY OF SIGNERS, AND THIS FACTOR, TOGETHER WITH MINIMUM PUBLICITY GIVEN TO APPEAL, TENDS TO MITIGATE IMPACT. HOWEVER, WE ANTICIPATE THAT APPEAL WILL BE TROTTED OUT AT FORTHCOMING LABOR CONFERENCE AT TERRIGAL, FEB 3-6. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPT. INDICATE WHETHER APPEAL OF AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS ON VIET-NAM, DATED DEC 14, WAS RECEIVED BY DEPT OR WHITE HOUSE. GREEN

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